

Month's Meditation

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." - II Timothy 3:16.

St. Luke 2:1-20
1. And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.
3. And all went to be taxed every one into his own city.
4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city Nazareth into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: (because he was of the house and lineage of David)

5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
6. And so it was that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7. And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

12. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15. And it came to pass as the angels were gone away from them

into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16. And they came with haste and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18. And all they have heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19. But, Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they heard and seen as it was told unto them.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Cherryville friends. Send your season's greetings to us at our present address.

Contributed by Bishop A. P. Robinson, Route 1, Box 80, Roan Mt., Tenn.

SILENT NIGHT
If the Church organ had not broken down and if the organist had not been able to stum a few chords on a guitar in an emergency, the loveliest Christmas carol of them all might never have been written.

Twenty-six year old Father Joseph Mohr, assistant priest at the newly erected Church of St. Nicholas in Oberdorf, in the Austrian Alps, was far from happy when his organist friend, Franz Gruber, told him that the pipe organ could not be used for the special Christmas Eve Mass scheduled for Dec. 24, 1818. Although he trained the choir and played the organ at Arnsdorf as well as at Oberdorf, thirty-one year old Gruber had neither the talent nor the time to repair broken connections, restore shattered pipes or replace worn out bellows. While Father Mohr was not desperate, he was a bit nervous at the prospect of a Midnight Mass without the traditional organ music. To relieve his tension, he bundled himself up in his warmest winter clothes, and went walking among his humble people.

Shortly after arriving at the home of one of his faithful families, a new baby was born to the poor laborer and his wife. The pastor compared that event with the birth of the Christ Child centuries earlier, and, upon arriving home a few hours later, conquered his fatigue and weariness long enough to pen four simple stanzas describing the wonder and the majesty of the first Christmas. His initial stanza contained these beautiful lines:

Silent night, Holy night; All is calm, All is bright.
Round yon, Virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

When Gruber burst into the room a few moments later with the news that the organ was hopelessly beyond repair, Father Mohr handed him the slip of paper on which he had written the new stanzas. While the choir-master read them, the priest picked up a guitar in an adjoining room.

Handed it to him, saying, "If we can't have the organ, at least we can have a new song. Try your hand at this." The more Gruber protested, the stronger Mohr insisted. To quiet his friend, Gruber strummed a few simple chords on the guitar, and soon was humming an original melody that seemed to express the sentiments of the poem perfectly. At midnight the new carol was sung for the first time.

It might have remained there in obscurity had not Karl Yauer, who came from the valley of the Zillertal to repair the organ early in 1819. Mohr asked Gruber to play the new carol for the famous organ builder and repairman.

When the job finally was completed, and Mauracher fell in love with a girl, about ten years later he felt that the four gifted Strasser children, Caroline, Joseph, Andreas and Amalie, were just the ones to give the new song to the world. They re-arranged the carol "The Song From Heaven" and sang it wherever they went.

On Christmas Eve, 1822, they were invited to introduce it in the Royal Saxon Court Chapel in

Plieissenburg Castle for the King and Queen of Saxony. The Director General of Music, Mr. Pohlenz, had heard the children singing at one of the great fairs in Leipzig where their parents went every year to sell their famous gloves. The unusual music had created an immediate sensation, the word spreading rapidly that "the four Strasser children sing like nightingales." It was at his request that the four were invited to sing for the Royal family at this special Christmas Eve celebration. Shortly thereafter "Silent Night" took its rightful place among the most beautiful Christmas carols of the Christian world and the passing of time only has added to its lustre.

W. Lawson Allen President Of G-W

Boling Springs — W. Lawson Allen, director of public relations at Gardner-Webb College, has been appointed acting president of that institution.

The executive committee of the board of trustees made the appointment Monday at the regular monthly meeting of that group.

Dr. Philip Lovin Elliott, president, was granted a leave of absence until March 15. His physician reported to the board members that the college head needs an extended rest to recuperate from a heart condition.

The new acting president was at Gardner-Webb College in 1944-46 as director of Church Relations. He returned in May, 1953, to direct the church-community development program, and in July of this year was made director of public relations. He is a graduate of Western Carolina Teachers College. He has studied at the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and holds the degree of Master of Religious Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Besides his work at Gardner-Webb, Allen has had 12 years experience as director of religious education in leading Baptist churches in Asheville, Winston-Salem, and Asheville, Ky., Spartan-

burg, S. C., and Jacksonville, Fla. Allen is married to the former Miss Josephine Moody of Sylva. They have two daughters, Louise and Billie. He is a native of Swain County.

GARDEN TIME
BY ROBERT SCHMIDT

There are a number of timely garden operations that can still be carried out if you slipped up on them earlier.

In the vegetable garden we may plant asparagus crowns. Buy one year old crowns of the Mary Washington variety at the larger seed stores. Dig a trench about 8 inches deep and wide enough so the fleshy roots of the asparagus crown can be well spread out. Before setting the crowns rake in

about one gallon of an 8-8-8 garden fertilizer per 100 feet of trench or make a generous application of well rotted stable manure. Set the crowns 18 inches apart in the trench and cover fifty plants should supply enough asparagus for the average family. It is best not to cut any of the spears the first spring. Asparagus is a perennial is a perennial plant and therefore should be planted to one side of the garden where it will not interfere with plowing. It should produce profitably for 10 to 15 years.

Head lettuce seed may be sown now in a coldframe to produce plants for setting in the field in February or early March. In the eastern portion of the state, cloth covers will be sufficient protection but in the Piedmont glass sash should be used. The Great Lakes variety is best for North Carolina.

Early setting of plants in spring is the secret of successful production of head lettuce in home gardens.

In the flower garden there is still time to plant spring flowering bulbs - tulips, daffodils, jonquils, crocus and Dutch Iris. They make a bright spot in the garden in early spring and everyone should plant some. It isn't necessary to buy the new, high priced varieties. The older ones may be just as beautiful and better adapted.

In eastern and central North Carolina fall is the best time to set pansy plants. Plants set at this time of the year become well established for good production of spring blooms.

Peonies are best planted in the fall in this part of the country.

They require shallow planting. Take care that the buds on the divisions are not covered more than one to two inches deep. Established plants should not be moved unless absolutely necessary. As long as they are blooming satisfactorily do not disturb them. It is not necessary to divide the plants every two or three years.

Plan your Christmas holiday baking, shopping, gift wrapping, etc., so that you won't be flustered and hurried at the last minute.

Falls, cuts, and burns are the most frequent injuries received at home. All of these are more apt to occur if you're tired or in a hurry. Allow ample time for each task you're doing - and have an accident-free holiday.



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Dr. W. L. Armstrong, Jr.

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